

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 15125 191456Z

51

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 IO-10

EB-07 FEAE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 OMB-01 SAB-01

/080 W

----- 113536

P R 191155Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC 1914

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BEIRUT 15125

USIA FOR IOP/M, IBS, IPS, INA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: ARAB-AMERICAN RELATIONS

SUMMARY. LEBANESE EDITORIAL WRITERS EXAMINE VARIOUS DIRECTIONS IN WHICH MIDEAST SITUATION MAY MOVE NEXT RANGING FROM IMPOSED SETTLEMENT (INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR) OR RENEWED USE OF OIL BOYCOTT (CONSERVATIVE AL HAYAT) TO OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING (PRO-COMMANDO AL MUHARRIR AND PRO-LIBYA AS SAFIR).
END SUMMARY.

1. WITHOUT TAKING A POSITION, LEADING INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR EDITORIALY EXAMINES PROPOSAL BY GEORGE BALL FOR U.S.-RUSSIAN IMPOSED MIDEAST SETTLEMENT SAYING: "US COULD HAVE IMPOSED SUCH SETTLEMENT IN 1968 WHEN ARABS' WEAKNESS WOULD HAVE FORCED THEM TO ACCEPT; OR IN 1972 WHEN ON JULY 18 SADAT EXPELLED SOVIET EXPERTS AND SOUGHT SETTLEMENT AT ANY
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 15125 191456Z

PRICE. BUT NOTHING HAPPENED BECAUSE 1968 AND 1972 WERE

ELECTION YEARS IN US... BALL POINTS OUT THAT 1975 IS NOT PRESIDENTIAL YEAR AND PRESIDENT FORD CAN IMPOSE WHAT JOHNSON AND NIXON COULD NOT IMPOSE."

2. IN A TUESDAY EDITORIAL AN NAHAR COMMENTED ON SADAT'S INTERVIEW WITH IRANIAN PUBLISHER SAYING: "IT APPEARS THAT PRESIDENT SADAT IS NOT ONLY VOICING WARNINGS, BUT ALSO IS IN TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. IT IS TRUE, AS HE SAYS, THE CONTACT CONCERNS AMERICA'S PRESENT ATTITUDE TOWARD GENEVA. BUT IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT EGYPTIAN CONTACT WITH WASHINGTON AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME CONCERNS TENSION... SADAT WARNS, RAISES HIS VOICE AND LEAVES DOOR OPEN FOR EVERYBODY. THIS METHOD OF EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT HAS PROVEN SUCCESSFUL, AT LEAST UNTIL NOW, IN DRIVING AWAY SPECTER OF WAR AND BRINGING CLOSER SHADOW OF PEACE. IF ISRAEL IS TO CHOOSE BETWEEN WAR AND PEACE... AMERICA HAS FIRST ROLE TO PLAY IN HELPING IT MAKE THIS CHOICE."

3. PRO-FEDAYEEN AL MUHARRIR CRITICIZES STEP-BY-STEP SETTLEMENT PROCESS SAYING: "US KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT ARABS WANT AND WHAT ISRAEL WANTS...WHY THEN THIS INNOVATION WHICH AMERICA WILL NOT GIVE UP?...THIS INNOVATION IS NOTHING BUT "AMERICAN TRAP" TO FORCE ARABS TO MAKE CONCESSIONS THAT GUARANTEE FOR ISRAEL RECOGNIZED, FULL AND OFFICIAL EXISTENCE... SINCE ISREAL IS NOT PREPARED TO WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS WITHOUT PRICE, AND REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS, OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, SETTLEMENT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT FORCE."

4. PRO-LIBYA AS SAFIR SEES MIDEAST ON BRINK OF EXPLOSION AND ADDS: "NOW EVERYTHING IS BACK IN TRUE PERSPECTIVE. ISRAEL AND AMERICA ARE ONE SINGLE FRONT IN SECRET AND IN PUBLIC. ONE OF THEM THREATENS ARABS AND OTHER THREATENS UN. ONE OF THEM MAKES PLANS TO STRIKE AT SYRIA AND SOUTH LEBANON WHILE OTHER MAKES PLANS TO OCCUPY OIL FIELDS AND PROVIDE ARMS TO ISRAEL FOR LONGEST TIME POSSIBLE BEFORE AND DURING WAR. ON OTHER HAND CIAOR, DAMSCUS, BAGHDAD AND PTOBABLY TRIPOLI PREPARE TO RECEIVE SOVIET LEADER BREZHNEV; SOVIET-ARAB RELATIONS ARE RETURNING GRADUALLY TO THEIR NATURAL COURSE; AND PLO OCCUPIES ITS PLACE BOTH AT UN AND WITHIN OCCUPIED LANDS."

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 15125 191456Z

5. CONSERVATIVE AL HAYAT SEES OIL AS MOST EFFECTIVE WEAPON IN ARAB HANDS AND CONTINUES: "US AWARENESS OF THIS WEAPON AND DANGER IT CONSTITUTES TO US IS UNDOUBTEDLY WHAT GAVE IT NOTION OF PREPARING TO OCCUPY OILFIELDS AS BRITISH REPORTS INDICATE...BUT POSSIBLE...REPERCUSSIONS UNDOUBTEDLY RESTRAIN AMERICA FROM RESORTING TO RECKLESSNESS... BT THAT AS IT MAY, OIL IS FIRST AND LAST WEAPON WHICH ARABS

HAVE AND UNDOUBTEDLY THEIR ONLY MEANS OF FIGHTING THEIR WARS."
GODLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BEIRUT15125
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740369-0632
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741224/aaaaatun.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 SEP 2002 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: ARAB-AMERICAN RELATIONS SUMMARY. LEBANESE EDITORIAL WRITERS EXAMINE VARIOUS
TAGS: PFOR, US, LE
To: USIA STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005